

Project Name: AIDS Prevention and Control Project (APAC)
Agreement Type: *Bilateral*
Duration: *1992-2012*
Geographic Scope: *Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Kerala*
Technical Assistance Agencies: *None*
Implementing Agency: *Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Chennai*

DESCRIPTION:

The AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC) Project, is the first bilateral HIV/AIDS project between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India. The \$47.25 million project was signed in Sept 1992 with the goal to reduce sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and increase access to care and support services to those affected by HIV in the states of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (total population of 63.01 million in 2001). In March 2007, APAC project was extended for 5 years with the objective to: support comprehensive prevention to care continuum services in selected high-prevalence districts; provide technical support to State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala; and to transition project supported activities.

Project interventions introduce and reinforce HIV-preventive behavior among high risk groups (e.g. sex workers, men having sex with men, injecting drug users, truck drivers, migrants, youth and women) and provide care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Prominent strategies of the project are: Behavior Change Communication, Prevention and Control of STIs, Condom Promotion, Care and Support, Capacity Building of NGO partners and Research. The project efforts have facilitated the state to support evidence based interventions, address gaps in prevention and care interventions and in the stabilization of the epidemic in the state. Many strategies and activities supported by the project have been adopted nationally. The project was actively involved in developing the State HIV/AIDS Project Implementation Plans, the NACP-III framework and is the vice-chair for Targeted Interventions in the country.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Prevention programs among high-risk and vulnerable populations;
- Care and treatment including CT services, home-based and institutional care;
- Communication activities for behavior change, advocacy and policy change;
- Capacity building of NGOs, CBOs, Health Care Providers, Peer Educators and SACS;
- Condom social marketing and promoting treatment of STIs; and
- Targeted Evaluation including mapping of high-risk-population, evaluative and impact assessments.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (From 1996 to 2007):

- Successful partnership with more than 50 NGOs/CBOs;
- Completed XI rounds of BSS and two rounds of STI community prevalence studies;
- Condom usage among truckers increased from 44% to 80%; among sex workers from 56% to 92%;
- Truckers contact with non-regular partners reduced from 48% to 34%;
- STI treatment seeking behavior among truckers improved from 64% to 92%;
- Condom sales tripled from 17 million to 54 million pieces;
- Condom distribution outlets increased from 19,000 to 61,000;
- Care, support and treatment provided to 5,600 PLHAs and 2,850 Orphan and Vulnerable Children;
- Trends in HIV Prevalence show continued decline (ANC Prevalence 1.13 in 2001 to 0.25 in 2006).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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